

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An intelligent interactive call handling system, comprising:

a central office operable to trigger a query responsive to receiving a call request for a called party at a called party telephone number;

call-handling device coupled to the central office, the call-handling device operable to receive the query, and trigger an internet call routing query; and

an internet call routing system coupled to the call-handling device, the internet call routing system being operable to receive the internet call routing query, send a notification of the incoming call to the called party at a plurality of registered communication devices that the called party is detected to be present, the notification prompting the called party for instruction for handling the incoming call, in accordance with instruction from the called party that is received in reply to the notification; and instruct the call-handling device to route the call to the called party telephone number if no instruction is received from the called party in reply to the notification after a set period of time, wherein the call-handling device forwards the instructions from the internet call routing system to the central office.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a certificate authority coupled to the internet call routing system, the certificate authority being operable to authenticate the called party by searching a customer database for current subscription and payment information.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a presence engine coupled to the internet call routing system, the presence engine being operable to determine the presence of any of said at least one registered communication device.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the internet call routing query comprises an account number associated with the called party, a phone number associated with the called party, a registration identification associated with the called party, and a certificate associated with the called party.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a gateway coupled between the call-handling device and the internet call routing system, the gateway being operable to translate protocols between the signaling system-7 protocol and the internet protocol.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a short message service server, an electronic mail server, an instant messaging server and a simple object access protocol server, said server(s) being coupled to the internet call routing system, and being operable to forward the notification to a registered communication device responsive to instructions from the internet call routing system.

7. (Currently Amended) An internet call routing system, comprising:

receive logic operable to receive a call query to a called party telephone number from a call-handling device via a gateway;

call notification logic being operable to send a notification to the called party via a plurality of registered communication devices that the called party is detected to be present, the notification prompting the called party for instruction for handling the incoming call; and

forwarding logic coupled to the call notification logic, the forwarding logic being operable to forward a call associated with the call query to the registered communication device in accordance with instruction from the called party that is

received in reply to the notification; and instruct the call-handling device to route the call to the called party telephone number if no instruction is received from the called party in reply to the notification after a set period of time.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a database operable to store a profile associated with the called party including a list comprising said at least one registered communication device, the database being operable to provide the list associated with the called party to the presence logic.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the call notification logic comprises at least one of a short message server, an electronic mail server, a simple object access protocol server, and an instant messaging server.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the call query comprises an account number associated with the called party, a phone number associated with the called party, a registration identification associated with the called party, and a certificate associated with the called party.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, further comprising authentication logic coupled to the receive logic operable to employ the certificate associated with the called party to authenticate the called party.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the authentication logic authenticates the called party, and assures that the called party continues to subscribe to a service provided by the internet call routing system.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, further comprising a rules engine, the rules engine being operable to parse at least one rule associated with the called party, and user-interface logic is operable to send a prompt to the called party via said at least one registered communication device responsive to the presence determination and rules engine, and receive a reply from the called party.

14. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said at least one registered communication device comprises at least one of a cellular phone and an internet protocol phone.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing intelligent interactive call handling, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a call query to a called party telephone number from a call-handling device via a gateway;

sending a notification to the called party via a plurality of registered communication devices that the called party is detected to be present;

generating a signal to initiate connection of ~~connecting~~ the call to the registered communication device in accordance with instruction from the called party that is received in reply to the notification; and

sending instructions to the call-handling device to route routing the call to the called party telephone number if no instruction is received from the called party in reply to the notification after a set period of time.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:

storing a profile associated with the called party including a list comprising the registered communication devices.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises:

storing a profile associated with the called party, the profile also including at least one rule for sending a prompt to the called party.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
parsing said at least one rule prior to sending the prompt to the called party; and
sending a message to the called party via at least one registered communication device responsive to the parsing.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the prompt is an internet-based message.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
using at least one of a short message server, an electronic mail server, a simple object access protocol server, and an instant messaging server, to send the notification to the called party via said plurality of registered communication devices.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said plurality of registered communication devices includes at least one of a cellular phone and an internet protocol phone.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the call query comprises an account number associated with the called party, a phone number associated with the called party, a registration identification associated with the called party, and a certificate associated with the called party.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising using the certificate associated with the called party to authenticate the called party.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a program for providing intelligent interactive call handling, the program having instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving a call query to a called party telephone number from a call-handling device via a gateway;

sending a notification to the called party via a plurality of registered communication devices that the called party is detected to be present;

connecting generating a signal to initiate connection of the call to the registered communication device in accordance with instruction from the called party that is received in reply to the notification; and

sending instructions to the call-handling device to route routing the call to the called party telephone number if no instruction is received from the called party in reply to the notification after a set period of time.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein the program further performs:

storing a profile associated with the called party including a list comprising the registered communication devices.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the program further performs:

storing a profile associated with the called party, the profile also including at least one rule for sending a prompt to the called party.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 26, the program further performing:

parsing said at least one rule prior to sending the prompt to the called party; and

sending a message to the called party via at least one registered communication device responsive to the parsing.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the prompt is an internet-based message.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 24, the program further performing:

using at least one of a short message server, an electronic mail server, a simple object access protocol server, and an instant messaging server, to send the notification to the called party via said at least one registered communication device responsive to the presence determination.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 29, plurality of registered communication devices includes at least one of a cellular phone and an internet protocol phone.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein the call query comprises an account number associated with the called party, a phone number associated with the called party, a registration identification associated with the called party, and a certificate associated with the called party.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 31, the program further performing using the certificate associated with the called party to authenticate the called party.